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CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:
dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks block size discrete cosine transforms (ABSDCT); and
decimating, selectively, certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria.
2. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the chrominance information of the block.
3. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the contrast of the block.
4. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the level of detail within the block.
5. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the desired bit rate.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein dividing further comprises separating the digital image into Y, C_b and C_r components.
8. (Amended) ~~The method as set forth in Claim 1,~~ A method of decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

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dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n), decimating further comprising:

filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, weighting column $m-1$ 25%, weighting column m 50%, and weighting column $m+1$ filtering further comprises 25%; and

decimating, selectively, certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 8, further comprising:

filtering each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, filtering further comprises weighting row $n-1$ 25%, weighting row n 50%, and weighting row $n+1$ 25%.

10. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising converting the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

11. (Amended) An apparatus for decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the apparatus comprising:

means for dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks utilizing adaptive block size discrete cosine transform (ABSDCT) technique; and

means for selectively decimating certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria.

12. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the chrominance information of the block.

13. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the contrast of the block.

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14. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the level of detail within the block.

15. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the desired bit rate.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, wherein means for dividing further comprises means for separating the digital image into Y, C_b and C_r components.

18. (Amended) ~~The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, An apparatus for decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the apparatus comprising:~~
means for dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks; wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n), means for decimating further comprising:

means for filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, means for filtering further comprises means for weighting column $m-1$ 25%, column m 50%, and column $m+1$ 25%; and

means for selectively decimating certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria.

19. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, means for decimating further comprising:

means for filtering each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, means for filtering further comprises means for weighting row $n-1$ 25%, row n 50%, and row $n+1$ 25%.

20. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, further comprising means for converting the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

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21. (Amended) An apparatus for decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the ~~method~~ apparatus comprising:

a divider configured to divide the digital image into a plurality of blocks, wherein utilize adaptive block size discrete cosine transforms (ABSDCT); and

a decimator configured to selectively decimate certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria.

22. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the chrominance information of the block.

23. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the contrast of the block.

24. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the level of detail within the block.

25. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the desired bit rate.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21, wherein the divider further comprises a separator, the separator configured to separate the digital image into Y, C_b, and C_r components.

28. (Amended) ~~The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21;~~ An apparatus for decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

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a divider configured to divide the digital image into a plurality of blocks wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n); and [[;]]

a decimator configured to selectively decimate certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria; the decimator ~~further comprising:~~ comprises a filter configured to filter each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, the filter further comprises~~[[;]]~~ a weighter configured to weight column $m-1$ 25%, column m 50%; and column $m+1$ 25%.

29. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the filter is further configured to filter each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, the weighter is further configured to weight row $n-1$ 25%, row n 50%, and row $n+1$ 25%.

30. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21, further comprising a converter configured to convert the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

31. (Amended) A method of converting a 4:4:4 digital image into a 4:2:2 digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks, wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of columns (m), each column m comprising a plurality of elements; and
selectively filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, filtering further comprising weighting column $m-1$ 25%; weighting column m 50%; and weighting column $m+1$ 25%.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A method of converting a 4:4:4 digital image into a 4:2:2 digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:
separating the digital image into Y, C_b and C_r components;

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dividing the C_b and C_r components into a plurality of blocks utilizing adaptive block size discrete cosine transforms (ABSDCT), wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of columns (m), each column m comprising a plurality of elements; and

selectively filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, the step of filtering further comprises:

weighting column $m-1$ 25%;

weighting column m 50%; and

weighting column $m+1$ 25%.